

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Response in response to the Office Action mailed January 24, 2006. Applicant has amended claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 16, cancelled claims 1, 5, 9, 13 and 17-31, and added new claims 32-39. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 16, and 32-39 are now pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating in paragraph 1 of the Office Action that dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has accordingly amended dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 to incorporate the limitations of their respective base claims, and has cancelled independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 17. Applicant has also amended dependency claims 2, 6, 10 and 16 to recite alternative dependency in order to accommodate the cancellation of claims 1, 5, 9, 17. Applicant has also added new claims 32-39, which recite similar elements to existing dependent claims 2, 6, 10 and 16. As a result, Applicant believes all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

As a formality, Applicant has cancelled claims 18-31 which had previously been withdrawn from consideration.

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In light of the claim cancellations and amendments made herein, such rejections are now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues which need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by phone at the number indicated below to discuss such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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